

## CLAIMS

1. Use of at least one acid-stable protease in animal feed, wherein the protease
- 5 (i) is of the subtilisin family; and/or
- (ii) has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with SSI. *SSI is a specific protease inhibitor.*
2. Use of at least one acid-stable protease in the
- 10 preparation of a composition for use in animal feed, wherein the protease
- (i) is of the subtilisin family; and/or
- (ii) has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with SSI.
- 15 3. The use of claim 1, wherein the dosage of the protease is 0.01-200 mg protease enzyme protein per kg feed.
4. The use of claim 2, wherein the intended dosage of the
- 20 protease is 0.01-200 mg protease enzyme protein per kg feed.
5. A method for improving the nutritional value of an animal feed, wherein at least one acid-stable protease is added to the feed, and wherein the protease
- 25 (i) is of the subtilisin family; and/or
- (ii) has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with SSI.
6. An animal feed additive comprising
- 30 (a) at least one acid-stable protease; and
- (b) at least one fat-soluble vitamin, and/or
- (c) at least one water-soluble vitamin, and/or
- (d) at least one trace mineral, and/or

has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with SSI.

7. The animal feed additive of claim 6, wherein the amount of the protease corresponds to an intended addition of 0.01-200 mg protease protein per kg feed.

8. The animal feed additive of ~~any one of~~ claims 6, which further comprises phytase, xylanase, galactanase, and/or beta-glucanase.

9. An animal feed composition having a crude protein content of 50-800 g/kg and comprising at least one acid-stable protease, wherein the protease

- (i) is of the subtilisin family; and/or
- (ii) has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with SSI.

10. The animal feed composition of claim 9, wherein the amount of the protease is 0.01-200 mg protease protein per kg feed.

11. A method for the treatment of vegetable proteins, comprising the step of adding at least one acid-stable protease to at least one vegetable protein or protein source, wherein the protease

- (i) is of the subtilisin family; and/or
- (ii) has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with SSI.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein soybean is included amongst the at least one vegetable protein source.